

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02

EURE-00 SAJ-01 /083 W

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P R 211728Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2568

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: VIOLENCE AT CAMPAIGN RALLIES

SUMMARY: CDS RALLY IN GUIMARAES WAS VIOLENTLY ATTACKED WITH THREE HOSPITALIZED AND TWENTY INJURED. PARTICIPANTS WERE UNABLE TO LEAVE UNTIL ARMY REINFORCEMENTS FREED THEM THE FOLLOWING MORNING. END SUMMARY.

1. A SERIOUS INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE AT THE CDS RALLY IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF GUIMARAES ON APRIL 20. THE RALLY, WHICH FEATURED CDS CANDIDATE GEN. GALVAO DE MELO AND INCLUDED CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL AND VICE PRES. AMARO DA COSTA, WAS SURROUNDED BY ROCK-THROWING DEMONSTRATORS. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE RALLY WERE UNABLE TO LEAVE UNTIL 7:30 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING AFTER MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS FROM OTHER TOWNS HAD INTERVENED.

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2. A FEW CDS MEMBERS, WHO ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE AT 2:00 A.M., WERE BEATEN, AND IN THE MELEEE WHICH FOLLOWED SHOTS WERE FIRED. AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE WERE HOSPITALIZED AND ANOTHER 20 INJURED. ONE PARTICIPANT DESCRIBED IT AS WORSE THAN A SIMILAR INCIDENT AT THE JANUARY CDS CONGRESS IN OPORTO.

3. AS THEY DID IN THE JANUARY OPORTO INCIDENT, THE BESIEGED CDS PARTICIPANTS CALLED SEVERAL EMBOFFS AT HOME TO REQUEST US INTERVENTION WITH THE GOP. NO US CITIZENS WERE IN DANGER, AND THE EMBASSY DID NOT APPROACH THE GOP.

4. CDS HAD INCREASED ITS PREVIOUSLY MINIMAL PUBLIC EXPOSURE OVER THE LAST WEEK AND AS A RESULT BECAME THE OBJECT OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING INCIDENTS IN OPORTO, ARCOS DE VALDEZ, AND BRAGA. THE CDS ELECTION FINALE IS SCHEDULED FOR BRAGA ON APRIL 21 AND PARTY LEADERS HAD EXPECTED A VERY LARGE TURNOUT. THEY NOW FEAR FURTHER VIOLENCE AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT MANY PARTICIPANTS WILL BE SCARED OFF.

5. ALTHOUGH ELECTION CAMPAIGN THUS FAR HAS EVOKED LESS VIOLENCE THAN MOST OBSERVERS HAD EXPECTED, SPORADIC INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR: PCP CLAIMS THAT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN TOWN OF FAMALICAO WAS ATTACKED BY ELEMENTS OF CDS; PCP ALSO CLAIMS IT WAS ATTACKED BY PPD ACTIVISTS IN RIBA D'AVE. VIOLENCE AT CDS GUIMARAES RALLY, HOWEVER, MORE SERIOUS THAN ANYTHING ALLEGED BY PCP.

6. COMMENT: DUE IN GREAT PART TO THE PRUDENCE OF THE CDS IN NOT GOING PUBLIC UNTIL THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN, THEY HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED THE LEVEL OF HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE THEY AT FIRST ANTICIPATED. AS FAR AS WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE, THE ATTACKERS ARE MAINLY FROM THE TROTSKYITE AND MAOIST FRINGE PARTIES -- ALTHOUGH SOME OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE GUIMARAES INCIDENT ALLEGEDLY WORE PCP BUTTONS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Subject: VIOLENCE AT CAMPAIGN RALLIES SUMMARY: CDS RALLY IN GUIMARAES WAS VIOLENTLY ATTACKED WITH
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Type: TE
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